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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002126

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [UZ](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/UZBEKISTAN: MORE ON DENIED DUTCH  
OVERFLIGHT

REF: TASHKENT 2077

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Schofer, Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

(C) Polmiloff followed up on August 2 with Joop Nijssen, Deputy Head of Operations at the Dutch MFA, regarding the July 29 flight clearance denial by the GOU of a Dutch military plane transiting from Afghanistan (reftel). Nijssen acknowledged that the denial was regrettable and most likely politically motivated, as suggested reftel. He noted, however, that while the purpose of the Dutch overflight was "military in nature", the plane itself had been contracted commercially. As such, Nijssen said the GOU was technically "within its rights" to deny the overflight as the request for flight clearance fell short of the required 30-day advanced notice for commercial flights. He confirmed that only a 10-day advanced notice is required for military planes. Nijssen suggested that, given this technicality, the Dutch did not have a strong case for a protest and therefore did not plan to make an issue out of the denial.

SOBEL